

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 3-5 remain unchanged.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-5 were identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

As mentioned above, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and only allowable claims 3-5 remain. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter as discussed above, it is submitted that pending claims 3-5 are allowable.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. As mentioned above, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. As a result, this rejection is no longer applicable and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takeda et al. (U.S. 6,542,202). As mentioned above, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. As a result, this rejection is no longer applicable and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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